

As Chair Haaland noted in her opening remarks, the Subcommittee meets today to consider two pieces of legislation; H.R. 1373 and H.R. 2181. I will note that both of these bills are Democrat sponsored, and that there is no Republican bill being considered at the hearing today.

Collectively, the two bills before us would withdraw well over a million acres of land from mineral development in Arizona and New Mexico. I am not opposed to mineral withdrawals when appropriate, and in fact have sponsored two pieces of legislation withdrawing a total of over 2 million acres of federal land.

I must, however, raise a few concerns with the proposals before us today, which I fear lack the necessary consensus that is critical for measures of this scope.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I experience firsthand how our domestic mineral production policy impacts the greater international community. Sending our resources to allies abroad opens opportunities to protect our interests, while also benefiting international partners. For this reason, mineral withdrawals, particularly of such a large scale, should be analyzed carefully.

However, the most concerning part of this hearing is that the Arizona bill continues the committee's troubling trend of taking up legislation introduced in another member's district without consultation or support from that member.

With that in mind I'd like to ask unanimous consent that Mr. Gosar of Arizona, a member of the Full Committee, whose district is directly impacted by H.R. 1373, be allowed to sit on the dais and to participate in today's hearing.  
[Without objection].

I yield the remainder of my time to my friend from Arizona, Mr. Gosar, whose Northern Arizona district contains a large portion the lands covered by H.R. 1373.